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#24/04  
#52/04**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Chennakeshu, S. )  
Serial No.: 09/237,356 )  
Filing Date: January 26, 1999 )  
Art Unit: 2631 )  
Examiner: Kumar, P. )  
Title: Reduced Complexity MLSE Equalizer For )  
M-ary Modulated Signals )

Confirmation No.7645

Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2600

Sir:

**RESPONSE**

This is a continuing response addressing the non-final Office Action mailed January 9, 2004 for the above captioned case.

**REMARKS**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 5, 9, and 13 under 35 USC 102(b) based on U.S. Pat. No. 5,673,294 to Namekata.

Namekata focuses its efforts on channel tracking in an MLSE equalization environment. It employs a two-step process comprised of a non-recursive least squares (LS) algorithm for obtaining initial channel estimates followed by a recursive least mean squares (LMS) algorithm that utilizes the results of the LS step. The combined LS/LMS processing approach is designed to yield a more efficient MLSE algorithmic approach for obtaining a branch metric that has faster convergence and requires fewer calculations.